

Brookland City Council Minutes
May 9, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Jones

Roll Call: Aldermen present: Mike Bishop, Linda Anderson Reece, Justin Langston, Wilson Shipman, William Thompson, David Gambill, Attorney Kevin Orr, Mayor Kenneth Jones, and City Clerk Billy Dacus.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve April 12, 2016 Brookland City Council minutes as written. Seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion to accept the city council minutes from April 12, 2016 passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Mike Bishop made a motion to approve April 25, 2016 Brookland Special City Council minutes as written. Seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and then opened motion to the council for discussion. Being no discussion, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion to accept the city council minutes from April 25, 2016 passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

New Business

Resolution 2016-10 – *to set look back policy for part time employees from 1/1-12/31 of active work year regarding health insurance coverage for part time employees* – Kevin Orr said Resolution 2016-10 has been drafted but requested that no action be taken tonight because more time is needed for him to research certain issues further. No action was taken and the resolution will be presented again at the next council meeting.

AHTD - 49B School Traffic - Mayor Jones stated that there is an ongoing problem with vehicles parking (staging) on highway 49B waiting for school to dismiss. Vehicles are permitted to start staging on School Street at 2:45 because it becomes a one-way street at that time. Once the automobiles spill out to Highway 49B, it becomes illegal. As long as traffic is moving there is no problem, but getting there before the 3:05 dismissal bell to line up on the highway causes issues for traffic to use the middle left turn only lane to pass vehicles in the south bound lane which is illegal. Walter McMillan of the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department has notified Mayor Jones that if the city did not take care of this situation AHTD will notify the Arkansas State Police and Highway Patrol about the cars parking on 49 B and they will start issuing tickets for violators. The mayor and the police force tried to warn some of the participants of the issue by walking the line of vehicles that was waiting on the highway one day but was met with some resistance that spill over to the social media as well as the local news

media. Mayor Jones wanted the council to be aware in case they received calls about the situation.

Resolution 2016-11 – *A resolution expressing the willingness of the city of Brookland Arkansas to utilize federal-aid transportation alternatives program funds* – This resolution is to apply for TAP funding (80-20) that would help to supply funding for an installation of a 5 foot wide sidewalk from downtown Brookland (Matthews Street) along the inside of highway 49B to School Street. City Attorney Kevin Orr read Resolution 2016-11 in it's entirety. Mike Bishop made motion to accept Resolution 2016-11 as read. The motion was seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion and second and opened motion to council for discussion. Several questions were asked by the council about the sidewalk's location, its width, the total length, as well as the cost. All questions were answered to council's satisfaction. Mayor Jones then called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Motion to approve transfer of funds in the amount of \$4,200 from utility fund to street fund for the transfer of the Gravely Pro-Turn 250 zero turn mower to utility department – Last month the council agreed to purchase a Pro-Turn 250 mower for the Utility Department that was an asset of the Street Department. That would require the transferring of \$4200 from the Utilities Fund to the Street Fund. This was never put into a form of a motion and Mayor Jones asked the council for a motion for the transaction for clarity purposes. Linda Anderson Reece made a motion to transfer \$4200 from the Utilities Fund to the Street Fund for the Pro-Turn 250 mower. The motion was seconded by David Gambill. Mayor Jones stated motion was now open for discussion. Being none, Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced the motion to transfer the funds had passed 6 yeas to 0 nays.

Discuss establishing a committee and fund to provide assistance to elderly with home repair needs – The Mayor wanted to bring to the attention of the council about forming a committee and a fund to provide assistance to the elderly or needy residences of Brookland with home repair needs. The Arkansas Municipal League assured Mayor Jones that the city could help fund this committee under the guidelines of "public purpose". There would be several options that could applied to this type of funding. The Mayor wanted the council to start thinking of ideas and ways to form a committee if this was something that the city wanted to do. More information will be gathered and discussed at the next meeting.

Old Business

Cole Stevenson property – Mayor said that he spoke with Cole Stevenson and that Cole is firm on \$7,500 per acre for his land he has for sale.

Phillips property - 57 acres - Mayor Jones and the council went to view the 57 acres that Steve Phillips has for sale as reported in the last minutes. It is located east of Union Pacific Railroad on Davidson Lane. The piece of property would cost an estimated \$313,500 total. Mayor Jones stated there was only one road currently into the property but he would talk with land owners that surround the property about another access road for the property. The mayor stated that there could be a number of grants that might be available to help develop the property once the land is purchased. Mayor Jones asked the council for their opinion on the purchase of the land. Questions were raised about the cost and if there could be donations that might help offset the major expense. It was decided that the mayor was going to check into the financing of a note and this project would be brought back up at the next meeting.

177 Brady Lane condemnation- update. – The mayor wanted to update the council on the condemnation process of 177 Brady Lane. A letter has been sent to the property owner but they have not replied. The question was asked as to what the next move should be. Attorney Orr replied that he would have to do some research because this is an unusual case in that the land owner and the house owner are different people. An update will be available at the next council meeting.

WIP 2016-01 - Update from Jason MacDonald regarding test well – Jason stated that he was waiting for the performance payment bonds from Layne Christensen Co. of Stuttgart, Arkansas. Once he received the bonds he could proceed further with the drill process.

Previous Month's Financials – Mayor Jones reviewed April Financial Reports. The following are 4-30-16 ending balances for the main operating checking accounts:

1. General Fund ending balance was \$200,343.82
2. Street Fund ending balance was \$60,934.29
3. Utility Fund ending balance was \$292,908.04

Mayor's Notes -

AML Convention – The mayor got the final count on who will be attending the convention.

Property at 407 Holman- Mayor Jones announced the property at 407 now belonged to the city of Brookland. The previous owner is moving out his contents. Renovation is to begin in the next week or so. Questions were raised as to whether a safe room for the city could be built in the location of the old store and the property at 407 Holman. It was discussed and decided the cost would be too great.

Steve Mobbs has brought up an issue about a drainage ditch that was being blocked by a neighbor. He wanted to know if the city could do anything to help him. It was advised by Attorney Orr that this was a civil matter and the city could not do anything. It was also asked

when the sewer would be installed in the area. It was noted that it would be installed by the fall of 2016.

Wilson Shipman made a motion to adjourn. Second by David Gambill. Mayor Jones called for a vote. Mayor Jones announced motion passed 6 yeas to 0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM by Mayor Jones.

Kenneth Jones, Mayor

Billy Dacus, Recorder